

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of treating an injured mammalian spinal cord, comprising contacting said spinal cord with an effective amount of a polyalkylene glycol.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said spinal cord is a severed spinal cord.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said injured spinal cord is a crushed spinal cord.

15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said polyalkylene glycol is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said carrier is water.

20 6. The method of claim 1, said method further comprising contacting said injured spinal cord with an effective amount of a potassium channel blocker before, during or after contacting said spinal cord with said polyalkylene glycol.

25 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said potassium channel blocker is an amino-substituted pyridine.

30 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said amino-substituted pyridine is 4-aminopyridine.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said polyalkylene glycol is polyethylene glycol.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said polyethylene glycol has
5 a molecular weight of about 400 daltons to about 3500 daltons.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one axon is contacted with said polyalkylene glycol.

10 12. A method of treating injured mammalian spinal cord tissue, comprising contacting said tissue with polyethylene glycol and a potassium channel blocker.

15 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said spinal cord tissue is severed tissue.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said spinal cord tissue is crushed tissue.

20 15. The method of claim 12, wherein said polyethylene glycol is water-soluble.

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25 16. A pharmaceutical composition for treating an injured mammalian spinal cord, comprising effective amounts of a polyalkylene glycol and a potassium channel blocker in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 17. The composition of claim 16, wherein said polyalkylene glycol is polyethylene glycol.

18. The composition of claim 17, wherein said polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400 daltons to about 3500 daltons.

19. The composition of claim 16, wherein said potassium channel
5 blocker is an amino-substituted pyridine.

20. The composition of claim 16, wherein said amino-substituted pyridine is 4-aminopyridine.

10 21. The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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